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**HELP APPROVES S.656-CDC FOUNDATION BILL, S. 898-PATIENT NAVIGATOR
TO EASE HEALTH CARE ACCESS FOR UNINSURED**

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Senator Mike Enzi, R-WY, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP Committee), announced today that he will continue the Committee's work to improve announced the passage of two bills, S.655, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation bill and S.898, the "Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act."

"The FDA's job is to determine whether the benefits of a drug outweigh the risks. To do this properly, the FDA needs to weigh benefits and risks on the same scale.

Some have proposed separating and isolating the drug safety office. What this really means is that the benefits and risks of prescription drugs would be weighed on two separate scales. The result would be less clarity and more confusion for patients and their doctors as they try to figure out how to interpret the separate measurements for themselves.

The goal of Congress should be to ensure that the FDA factors safety into the drug review process at every step along the way. Isolating the drug safety specialists in a separate post-marketing center moves us farther from, not closer to, that goal."

"Today the HELP Committee is continuing to move forward with the passage of two bills to improve the management and oversight of the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a measure to expand access to health care for the underinsured," Enzi said Wednesday.

"S.656 follows similar legislation that we passed earlier this year to update activities at the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. I am pleased that we will be making similar changes to the Foundation at the CDC, which will enable more efficient use of government funds."

To ensure that the CDC Foundation is more in line with the recent HELP Committee actions with the NIH Foundation, Senator Johnny. Isakson (R-GA) agreed to two minor changes to the original bill, including setting a maximum transfer amount of \$1,250,00 and adding additional reporting requirements of the CDC Foundation for funds transferred from CDC to the CDC Foundation.

Specifically, the CDC Foundation Bill extends fellowships within the CDC Foundation to the full duration of the grant or private funding, along with allowing for in-kind donations, separate of cash, from the CDC to the CDC Foundation. Finally, the bill raises the maximum allocation of funds transferred from the CDC to the CDC Foundation from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000.

“S.898, The Patient Navigator legislation will assist individuals in making their health care choices by providing access to services that help them move through the health care system,” Enzi added.

“Navigating the health care system can be a hard journey for many people, especially when they are poor, underinsured, or uninsured. Helping more Americans stay healthy and overcome barriers to health care – from screening to diagnosis, treatment and beyond – is the idea behind S.898,” Enzi said.

The bill authorizes a five -year demonstration program to provide community access to patient navigators – individuals who are trained to assist people working to navigate the difficult health care system.

Modeling this demonstration program after similar programs which have shown great promise will help ensure that we can assist individuals in navigating the difficult health care system.

“I want to thank Senators Hutchison, Bingaman, and the rest of the Committee for producing a bill that will authorize a much-needed demonstration program. This bill represents a truly bipartisan effort and I look forward to having it signed into law this year,” Enzi added.